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Corona Hotel (Edmonton)

Corona Hotel was a hotel located in downtown Edmonton, Alberta. The original was built in 1910 on the Wize Block but was burnt to the ground, quickly being replaced. The final Corona was razed in 1981, and it's name given to the Corona station which opened in 1983.

Interior shot of the old Corona Hotel

History

Edmonton architect James Edward Wize built his masterpiece in 1908; a commercial block on Jasper Avenue and 106 street inspired by Romanesque Revival which defines Jasper Ave.[1] He'd previously built the Alberta Hotel. Wize developed the area from a retail block into a thriving tourist spot; named after corona cigars from Cuba. The hotel was advertised as "fireproof" but 1932 that would be disproved by a natural gas line explosion placing the whole building in an inferno. This led to a legal battle over blame. On April 12, 1947, the *new* Corona Hotel was opened, and Wize himself was running it until retirement. The hotel was demolished in 1981 shortly after.[2]

Today, the First Edmonton Place office tower stands where Corona once was.[3]

Reputations

The Corona and it's tavern had a reputation for being welcoming for members of the LGBT community. In 1975, it hosted the "Fantasy Follies" group of drag performers.

In 1977, the Corona was involved in the public murder of Ian McLaren to Peter Paquette. Paquette pleaded that it was self-defense, and had previously stolen amphetamine, resulting in a confrontation.[4]

References

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